Reviewer’s report

Title: Acute pulmonary embolism in the era of multi-detector CT: a reality in sub-Saharan Africa.

Version: 3 Date: 19 May 2012

Reviewer: John W Nance

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Remove patient identifiers from figures
2. Your purpose should be reworded – you did not assess the outcomes of PE, but the incidence and demographics surrounding it. There is no clinical data to assess for outcomes.
3. Please reorder and format according to BMC Medical Imaging’s guidelines for Research Articles: http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedimaging/authors/instructions/researcharticle

Minor Essential Revisions
4. Condense the descriptive statistics. Specific examples include but are not limited to:
   # “range 33-65” instead of “minimum age…”
   # Please be uniform in using numbers or text for numbers
   # Avoid repeating data in the text that is present in the tables
   # Do not give data that could be inferred from other data (e.g. if you say there are 41 patients and 17 males, you do not need to state how many females there are)
5. CT may be the imaging modality of choice in SOME patients with suspected cardiothoracic disease, but the statement is too broad as it currently stands (statement present in abstract and background)
6. The percentages in Table 1 are incorrect in the bottom 2 right rows.
7. Improved wording throughout the manuscript would greatly and favorably impact the readability
8. The final sentence of the results section of the abstract should be reworded, and may not be warranted in the abstract itself.
9. No need to continuously state “mean+/− standard deviation.” You can just state that the numbers are the mean, and SD will be implied. I would include this statement in the tables, however.
10. I would add a reference to validate your definition of “thromboembolic risk factors”
11. The arrows/arrowheads in the figures should be enlarged and better
optimized so that they are better seen.

Discretionary Revisions

12. I would change the term “milieu” to “population” when it is used
13. Consider reporting your dose
14. I would remove the “0” in front of the single integers in table 2.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests